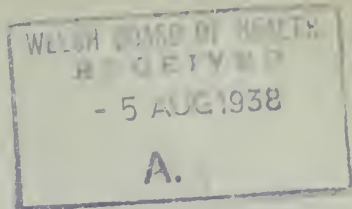


Whitehead



Medical Officer's Annual Report for 1937.
TO THE BRECON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to report to you on the Health of the Rural District of Merthyr Cynog in the year 1937.

Public Health Officers.-

- Medical Officer.- Thomas Lewis Davies, M.A., B.M., B.Ch.,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., - Part Time.
- Sanitary Inspector.- W. L. Pritchard. - Part Time.

SECTION. A.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------|
| Area in acres. | 50,164. |
| Population (estimated) 1937. | 1,887. |
| Number of inhabited houses. | 547. |
| Rateable value. | £ 8,848. |
| Sum represented by a penny rate. | £ 39-14-1. |

Chief Industries.- The area is strictly rural with Agriculture as the main occupation. Dairy and Poultry farming are practised on a small scale. There are no towns and hardly any villages, the inhabitants being mainly scattered.

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the year.-

| | Total. | Male. | Female. | |
|--|--------|-------|---------|----------------------|
| <u>Live Births.</u> (Legitimate. 34. 20. 14.) | | | | Birth Rate per 1,000 |
| (Illegitimate. 3. 3. -) | | | | of the estimated re- |
| | | | | sident population |
| | | | | = 19.60 |

The Rate for England and Wales was 14.9

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| <u>Still Births.</u> (Legitimate. 2. - 2) | Rate per 1,000 Total |
| (Illegitimate. - - -) | (live and stillbirths) |
| | = 51.28 |

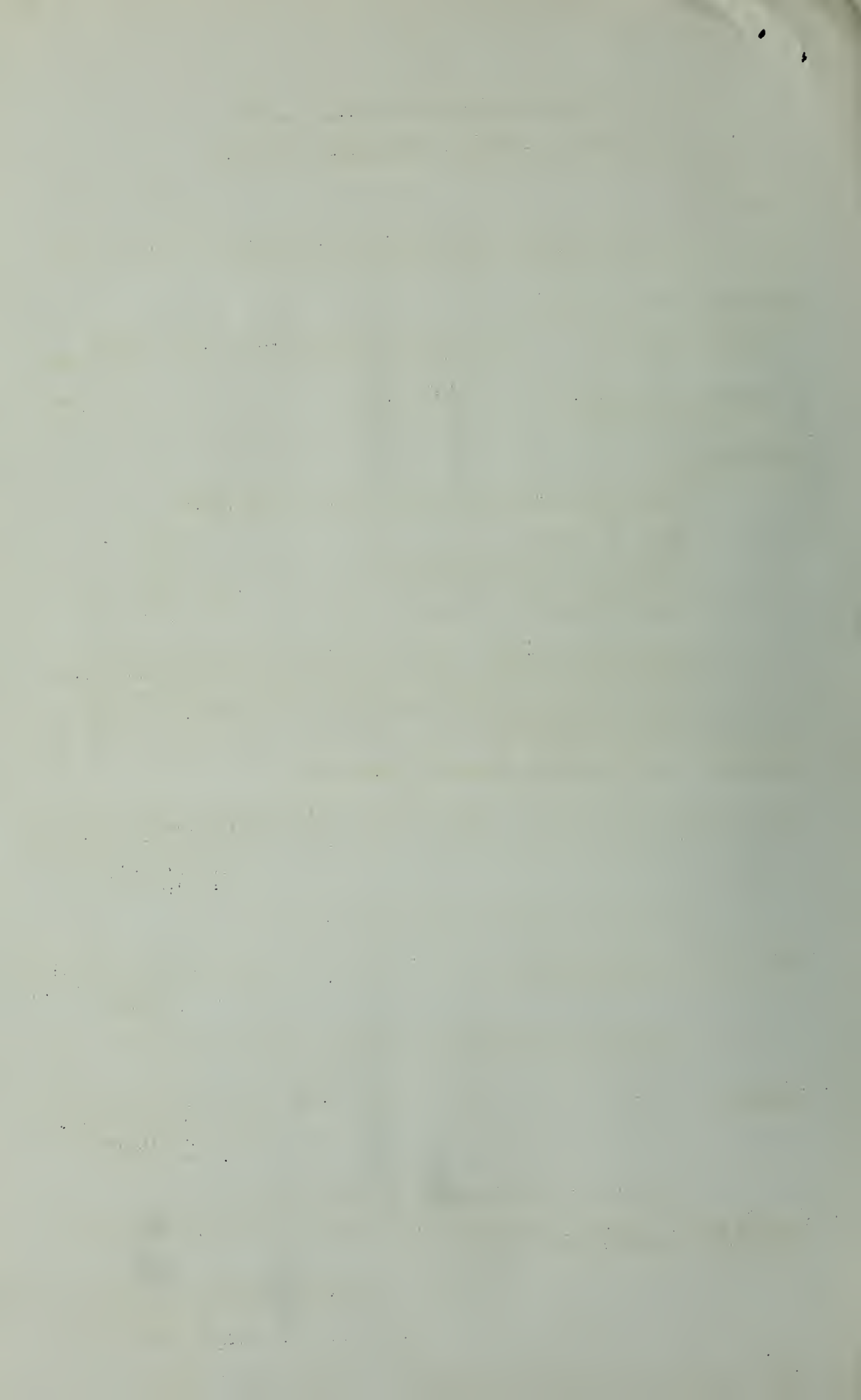
The Rate for England and Wales was 0.60 (This rate for England and Wales is per 1,000 population).

| | | |
|-----------------|---------------|----------------------|
| <u>Deaths.-</u> | 27. 14. 13.) | Death Rate per 1,000 |
| | | of the estimated re- |
| | | sident population |
| | | = 14.30 |

The Rate for England and Wales was 12.4

Deaths from puerperal causes(Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List).-

| | Deaths. | Rate per 1,000 (live and still) Births. |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---|
| No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis. | Nil. | Nil. |
| No. 30. Other puerperal causes..... | 2. | 51.28 |
| Total. | 2. | 51.28 |



The Rates for England and Wales were 0·94, 2·17
and 3·11 respectively.

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age.-

| | |
|--|-------|
| All infants per 1,00 live births..... | 27·02 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births..... | 29·40 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births... | Nil. |

The Rate for England and Wales was 58·00

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------------|---|------|
| <u>Deaths from.-</u> | Cancer (all ages) | - | 3. |
| | Measles (all ages) | - | Nil. |
| | Whooping Cough (all ages) | - | Nil. |
| | Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | - | Nil. |

Transferable Deaths.-

7 persons belonging to the district died outside the district and no persons belonging to an outside district died within the district during the year.

SECTION. B.

General Provision of Health Service for the Area.

- (a) Laboratory facilities.- Laboratory examinations are carried out at the Beck Laboratory, Swansea.
- (b) Ambulance facilities.- The Order of St. John of Jerusalem has an ambulance available at all time for all except infectious cases.
- (c) Nursing in the Home.- No trained nurse or Certified Midwife resides and practises within the area either in a public or private capacity. There is an imperative need for the establishment of an efficient Nursing Service within the area.
- (d) Clinics and Treatment Centres, including Clinics solely for diagnosis or consultation.- A Maternity and Child Welfare Centre meets at Brecon on the third Friday monthly.
- (e) Hospitals.- There are no hospitals situated within the area but accommodation is available for hospital cases in the County War Memorial Hospital at Brecon which is conveniently situated. Arrangements have also been made with the Brecon Borough Council for Isolation Hospital accommodation at their Hospital near Brecon. This hospital is now inadequate and it has been agreed to erect a new Isolation Hospital. A new site having now been agreed upon fresh plans are being prepared, and tenders will be invited in the near future. At the present time sporadic cases of infectious diseases are being admitted to the Mardy Isolation Hospital, Merthyr Tydfil.
- (f) Local Government Act.- Administered by the County Council.
- (g) Poor Law Medical Out Relief.- Administered by County Council through Public Assistance Officers.
- (h) Institutional Provision for the care of Mental Defectives.- Administered by County Council. Female Patients are cared for at the Pantglas Hall, Carmarthenshire, and Males at Forden Institution, Montgomeryshire, and elsewhere.
- (i) Institutional Provision for Mothers or Children.- No provision for such cases is made.

- (j) Midwifery and Maternity Services.- Midwives from adjoining districts attend cases within this district. Ante-Natal examinations are carried out by the Practitioners for which the County Council is responsible for the fee. No charge is made to the patients for such examinations.
- (k) Health Visiting.- This work is carried out by a Whole Time Health Visitor employed by the County Council.
- (l) Children Act. 1908.- Administered by the County Council.
- (m) Orthopaedic Treatment.- The County Council has the services of a Whole Time Orthopaedic Sister and a Part Time Orthopaedic Surgeon who is attached to the Prince of Wales' Hospital, Cardiff.
- (n) Maternity and Nursing Homes.- There are no registered homes in the area.

SECTION. C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

- (a) Water.- This is mainly from wells. At a few villages there is a public supply by pipe from a spring. The Council are still contemplating laying water on to several villages and the matter is at present being seriously discussed with a view to supplying a wholesome supply throughout their district.
The Council are now considering laying a supply of water by gravitation to the Village of Llanddew and levels have been taken and plans prepared.
- (b) Drainage and Sewerage.- At Llanddew there is waste water drainage. No other pipe drainage or sewerage exists in the area.
- (c) Rivers and Streams.- No cases of pollution of streams in the area have been reported.
- (d) Closet Accommodation.- Earth Closets throughout.
- (e) Public Cleansing.- Method of collecting dry house refuse and disposal of same.- There is no organised scavenging. The Council are still considering making arrangements for the provision of collecting and disposing of house refuse in the whole district.
- (f) Report of Sanitary Inspector under Article 27 of Sanitary Officer's (Outside London) Regulations, 1935.-

| | |
|---|--|
| Number and nature of inspections made.- | Numerous. |
| Number of notices served.- | (a) Statutory. 21. |
| | (b) Informal. 196. |
| | (c) Result of the Service of such notices. Remedied. |

Special Classes of Premises and Occupations subject to Control by the Authority.

Number of Houses let in lodgings, Tents, Vans, Sheds, Others.- Nil.

Offensive Trades, Underground Sleeping Accommodation, Etc.- - Nil.

Other Sanitary Conditions.- Disposal of the Dead, Etc.- The Burial of the dead takes place in Churchyard Cemeteries.

Rag Flock Acts. 1911 and 1918.- No Action.

- (g) Shops.- Action taken under the provisions of the Shops Act, 1934.-
Strict supervision is maintained but no action was necessary during the year.
- (h) Smoke Abatement.- The district being wholly rural, no action has been taken.
- (i) Swimming Baths and Pools.- There are no private or public Swimming Baths or Pools within the district.
- (j) Eradication of bed bugs.- Particulars of the action taken for the eradication of bed bugs, including information as to:-
- (1) The number of (a) Council Houses, (b) other houses,
(1) found to be infested, (2) disinfested: Nil.
 - (2) The methods employed for freeing infested houses from bed bugs; -
 - (3) The methods employed for ensuring that the belongings of tenants are free from vermin before removal to Council houses; Inspections.
 - (4) Whether the work of disinfection is carried out by the Local Authority or by a contractor. - Local Authority.
- (k) Schools.- Sanitary Conditions, water supply, Health of Scholars, Prevention of Spread of Infectious Diseases.- The water supplies although not piped to the schools are never failing. Battle Council School was closed during the year owing to influenza.
- In February of this year the County Council offered immunisation free of charge to all pre-school and school age children residing in the Llanspyddid District. Many parents availed themselves of this opportunity and attended at the Llanspyddid Council School on three successive weeks. Later in the year another case occurred in a child whose parents had refused immunisation and a further opportunity was given for such children to be done. All children, who have not had Diphtheria, living in this district have been immunised with the exception of two families where the parents refused.

SECTION.. D.

Housing. Statistics for the Year, 1937.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year.-

- (1) (a) Total Number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)... 356.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 409.
- (2) (a) Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925..... 14.
- (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose..... 26.
- (3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.-..... Nil.
- (4) Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation..... 57.

2. Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices.-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers..... 118.

3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.-

(a) Proceedings under Section 9, 10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs..... 14.

(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices.-

(a) By owners..... 9.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners..... Nil.

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts.-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied..... 8.

(2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices.-

(a) By owners..... 5.

(b) By Local Authority in default of owners..... Nil.

(c) Proceedings under Section 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.-

(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... Nil.

(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... Nil.

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.-

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made..... Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit..... Nil.

4. Housing Act, 1936 - (Part IV) Overcrowding.-

(a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of the year..... Nil.
2. Number of families dwelling therein..... ---
3. Number of persons dwelling therein..... ---

(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year..... Nil.

(c) 1. Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year..... 2.
2. Number of persons concerned in such cases..... 11.

(d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding..... Nil.

(e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider it desirable to report.- Nil.

SECTION. E.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.-

- (a) Milk Supply (Milk and Dairies Ordor, 1926).-
Inspection of Farms and Dairies.-

Frequent inspections are made.

Examination of Samples for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli.-

Samples are frequently taken for bacterial content and for tubercle bacilli, and prosecutions are taken when necessary.

- (b) Meat and Other Foods.-

Inspection of Meat, Slaughterhouses, Shops, Stalls,
Vehicles and places where food is prepared.-

Frequent inspections are made.

- (c) Adulteration.- Action taken under Food and Drugs (Adulteration Act, 1928), etc.-

This work is carried out by the County Council.

- (d) Chemical and Bacteriological Examination of Food.-
Laboratories at which such work is carried out and nature of the
work done.-

This work is carried out by the County Council.

- (e) Nutrition.- Dissemination of knowledge. Nil. Milk is supplied to school children by the County Council at a reduced price, also free to necessitous cases, under the Scheme of the Milk Marketing Board, also to Expectant and Nursing Mothers and to Infants under a Scheme of the Breconshire County Council.

- (f) Shell-fish (Molluscan).- There are no such shell-fish beds in the district.

SECTION. F.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and
Other Diseases.-

Proper isolation and disinfection.

Vaccination performed by Medical Officer of Health under the
Public Health (Smallpox Prevention) Regulations, 1917.-

- | | |
|-----------------------|------|
| (a) Primary.- | Nil. |
| (b) Re-Vaccinations.- | Nil. |

Cleansing and Disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings
premises, and articles.-

Disinfection is carried out when found necessary by the Sanitary Inspector.

Prevalence of Animal and Insect Pests, Rats, Mosquitoes, Etc.-

No cases were reported in the year.

Notifiable Diseases. (Other than Tuberculosis).-

| <u>Disease.</u> | <u>Total cases Notified.</u> | <u>Cases Admitted to Hospital.</u> | <u>Total Deaths.</u> |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|
| Smallpox. | - | - | - |
| Scarlet Fever. | 3. | 3. | - |
| Enteric Fever (Including Paratyphoid). | - | - | - |
| Diphtheria. | 2. | 2. | - |
| Puerperal Fever. | - | - | - |
| Puerperal Pyrexia. | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia. | 1. | - | 3. |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum. | - | - | - |
| Chickenpox. | - | - | - |
| Whooping Cough. | - | - | - |
| Erysipelas. | - | - | - |
| Acute Poliomyelitis. | - | - | - |

Analysis of the Total Notified Cases.

| <u>Age Groups.</u> | <u>Scarlet Fever.</u> | <u>Diphtheria.</u> | <u>Pneumonia.</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|-------------------|
| Under 1 year. | - | - | - |
| 1- | - | - | - |
| 2- | - | - | - |
| 3- | - | 1. | - |
| 4- | 1. | - | - |
| 5- | 2. | 1. | - |
| 10- | - | - | - |
| 15- | - | - | - |
| 20- | - | - | - |
| 35- | - | - | - |
| 45- | - | - | 1. |
| 65 and over. | - | - | - |
| Total. | 3. | 2. | 1. |

- (a) Cancer.- 3 deaths from cancer occurred during 1937, all cases being males.
- (b) Prevention of Blindness.- The County Council has the services of two part time Eye Specialists, one at Cardiff, and one at Swansea.
- (c) Tuberculosis.- Action taken under Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, or under Section 62 of the Public Health Act, 1925.

Nil.

New Cases and Mortality during 1937.

| Age Periods. | NEW CASES . | | | | DEATHS . | | | |
|-----------------|--------------|----|------------------|----|--------------|----|------------------|----|
| | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | | Respiratory. | | Non-Respiratory. | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 - - - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 1 - - - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 5 - - - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 15 - - - | - | 1. | - | - | - | 1. | - | - |
| 25 - - - | - | - | - | - | 1. | - | - | - |
| 35 - - - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 45 - - - | 1. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| 55 - - - | - | - | - | - | 1. | - | - | - |
| 65 and upwards. | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Totals. | 1. | 1. | - | - | 2. | 1. | - | - |

Ratio of Non-notified Tuberculosis Deaths.- No such deaths occurred during the year.

No case of wilful neglect to notify Tuberculosis cases has come to notices.

Statement as to Causes of Deaths.- Deaths (All Causes) - 27.
Influenza - 1, Tuberculosis - (Respiratory) - 3, Cancer - 3,
Diabetes - 1, Cerebral Haemorrhage - 1, Heart Disease - 3, Other
Circulatory Diseases - 1, Pneumonia - 3, Peptic Ulcer - 1,
Nephritis - 2, Other Digestive Diseases - 1, Other puerperal
diseases - 2, Other defined Diseases - 4. Senility - 1.

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

T. L. Davies,

Medical Officer of Health.

Ruperra House,

Brecon.

29th. July 1938.

